



Making Michigan a Top Ten State for Education

**Presentation by Gilda Z. Jacobs, President & CEO
Michigan League for Public Policy**

**To the State Board of Education
August 11, 2015**



The League's Mission

To foster economic opportunity, independence and security for Michigan families by shaping public policy through objective, data-driven research, education and advocacy

We need a two-generation solution to poverty and education

The reality is that we can't improve achievement for all children without addressing poverty through a two-generation strategy.

Time for a Paradigm Shift?



The League's Top 3 Recommendations

- 1. Reduce disparities by targeting resources to high poverty districts and communities of color.**
- 2. Invest in early care and education, with a stronger focus on child care and services for families with infants and toddlers.**
- 3. Strengthen adult education and training.**

Poverty's Impact on Education

Children in families living below 200% of poverty are:

- ✓ More likely to repeat grades
- ✓ More disengaged in school



Adults who spent long time as children in poverty are:

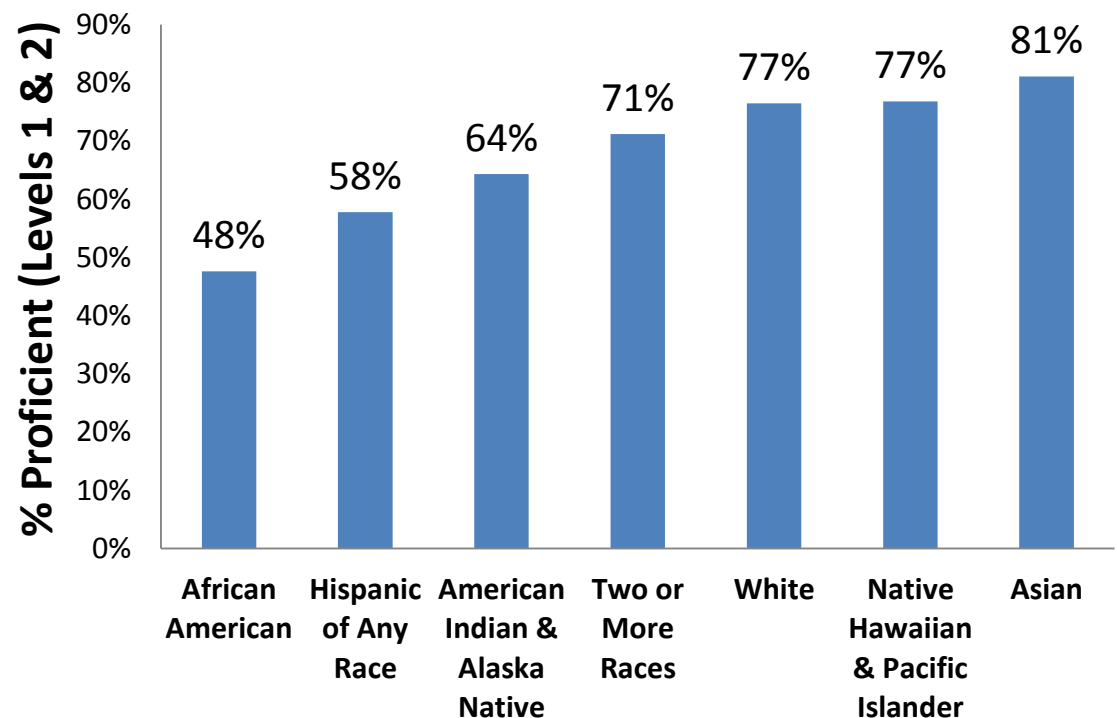
- ✓ Less likely to have graduated from high school
- ✓ Less likely to find stable employment

Recommendation #1:

Target resources

Increase funding for the At-Risk School Aid Program.

**Disparities in Reading by 4th Grade Persist:
MEAP Reading Proficiency by Race/Ethnicity
2013-14**



Recommendation #2:

Improve early childhood education and care services with a focus on the youngest children

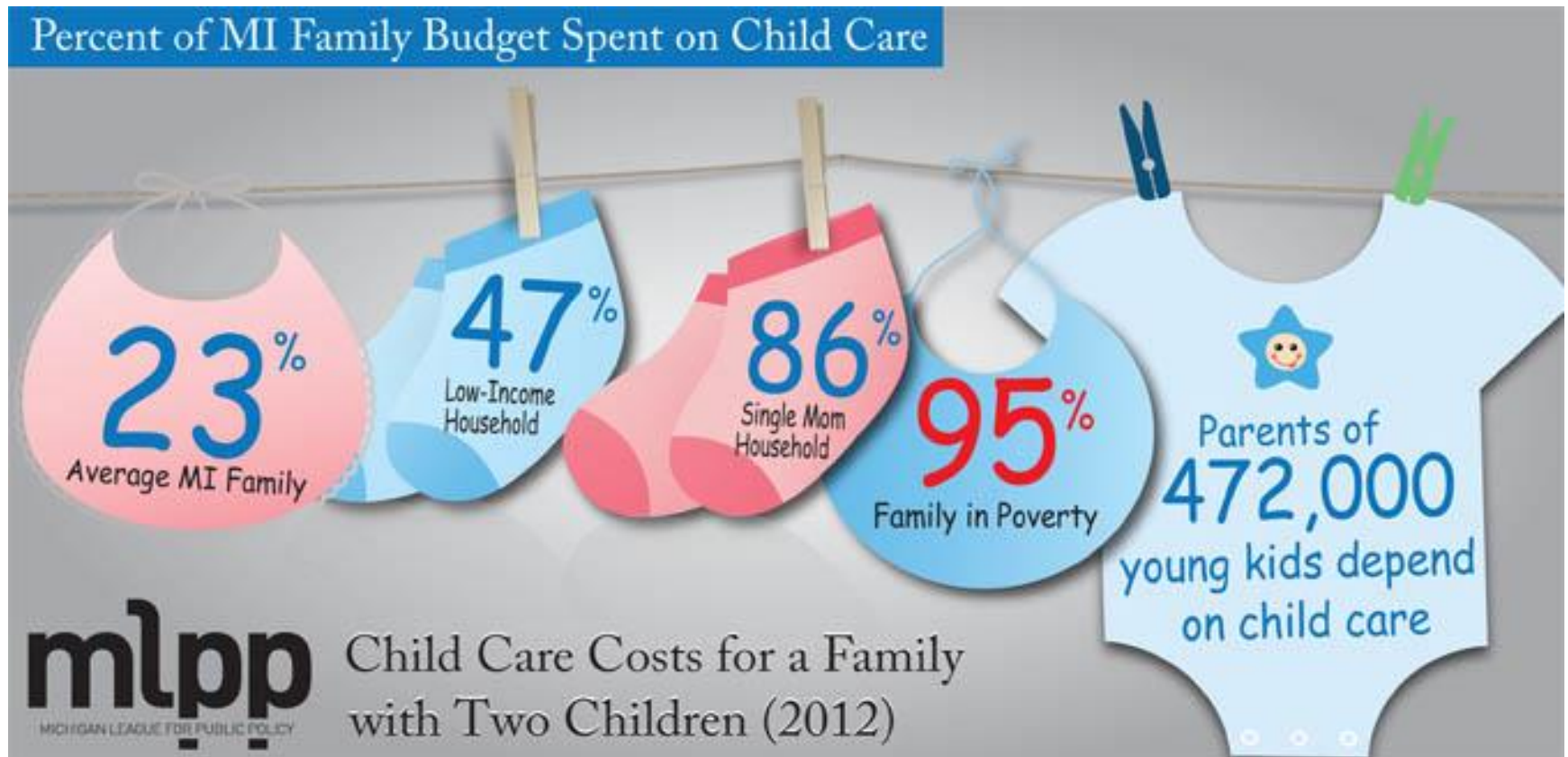
- **Provide high quality child care that helps parents work and children learn.**
- **Fund programs to find and help young children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families (Early On).**
- **Expand home-visiting and family literacy programs to help develop parental literacy skills and improve school readiness.**

High quality child care that helps parents work and children learn must be a high priority

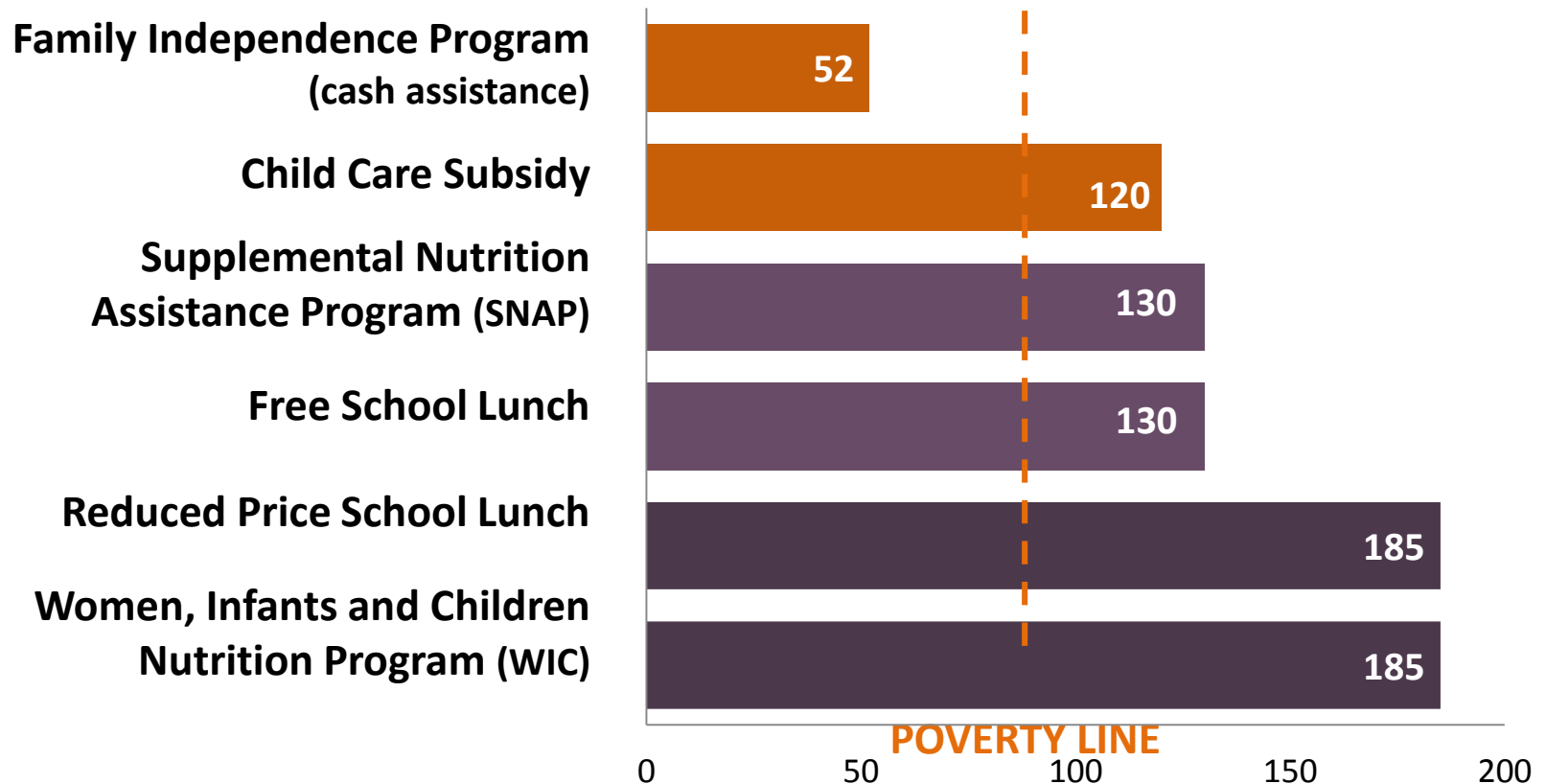
Two of every three young children in Michigan live in families where all parents work.



Child care costs are a barrier to work for many Michigan families



The two “safety net” programs with the lowest eligibility levels—including child care—are controlled by state



Where to start in a grossly underfunded child care system?

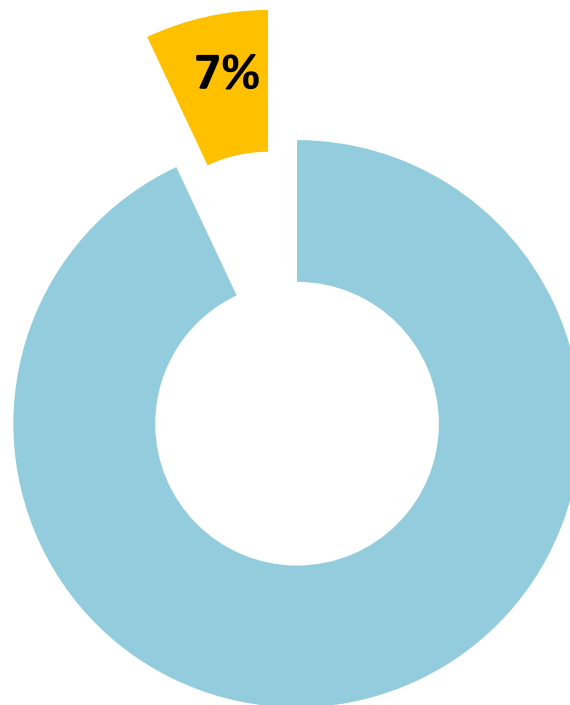
- **The baseline: ensure compliance with health and safety regulations**
- **Expand eligibility and avoid cliff effects**
- **Continue to increase provider rates, providing incentives & assistance to move up quality system**
- **Recognize regular business practices such as weekly payments**
- **Build supports for unlicensed family, friend and neighborhood child care providers**

Recommendation #3: Expand adult education

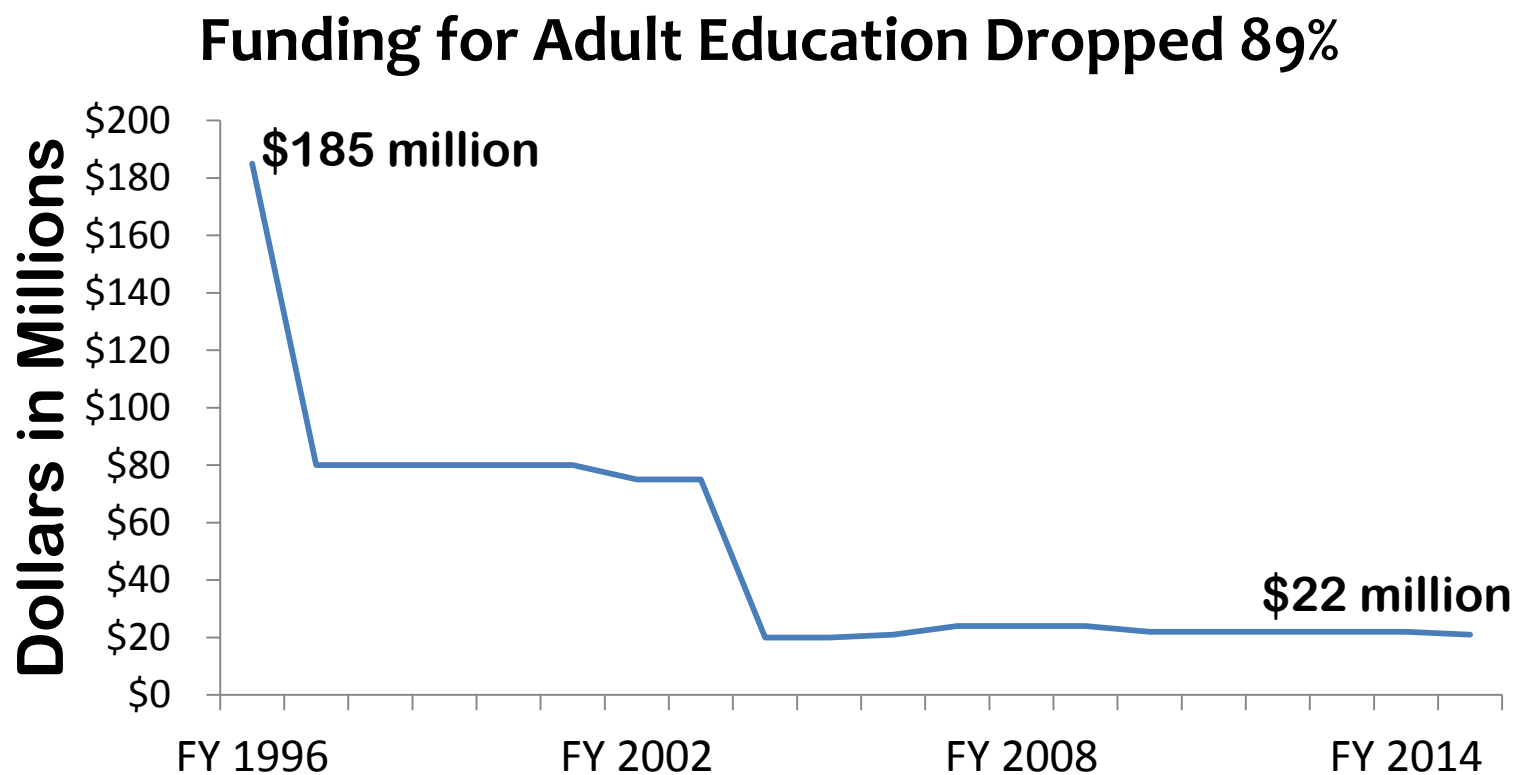
Michigan is not meeting the need for adult education

**Over 221,500
Michigan adults age
25-44 lack a high
school diploma or
GED.**

**Fewer than 7% of
these adults are
enrolled in adult
education.**



Funding for adult education cut deeply



For more information

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